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Letter from Mary C. Rion to Thomas G. Clemson, 1887 April 30

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Recommended Citation

"Letter from Mary C. Rion to Thomas G. Clemson, 1887 April 30" (1887). *Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2*. 1494.

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Col. Starke
Donation to State

A
C626.

Minneapolis S.C.

April 3rd 1887

Hon. J. G. Clemson,

My Most Dear & Honored Friend;

I assure you it was with great pleasure that I received your very kind favor of the 31st March. I have been wishing so much to hear from you and to know that you were thinking of me sometimes was a great pleasure.

I will have Mr. O'bear forward to you the Will as you desire.

I had already forwarded to Mr. Simpson the Calhoun trunk, and put in it Mr. Starke's reminiscences of Mr. Calhoun. I hope you will be able to get some stenographer who will be able to decypher it. But I fear not. For Col. Starke told me it was in a short hand of his own invention. Col. Kim paid Mr. Starke an annuity while he was writing the life and you doubtless

contributed to help the old gentleman to live and it would be a pity not to get any good out of his labors for years. I never tried to read any of the manuscript since it has been in the house, and do not know whether he had made an interesting work of it.

My Cousin Mr. Fahnestock of New York has not been South since Col. Rion's death, but he has had all my Estate business mapped out and he is helping me by letter to work out the business. He may some day later in this year come out. But at present it is almost impossible for anybody to get any money for the country is in a desperately poor condition. What little money there was owing Col. Rion I cannot collect & it is utterly impossible to sell real estate before ^{the} Fall, & even then I doubt whether anything can be realized on it. But with Mr. Fahnestock's good

financial ability to advise & assist me, I trust to get through. No doubt Mr. Fahnestock would be glad to visit so memorable a spot as the Home of John C. Calhoun; & if he ever comes out I will tell him of your hospitable invitation.

I want, if I can raise the means, this summer to go to the Highlands & spend a couple of months, taking Hanna my youngest daughter with me. I hear that I can get very cheap board and with Excursion tickets it may be accomplished. If we go, I intend stopping over to see you at Fort Hill for a week, if agreeable to you. But who knows whether we will all live until July? Life is uncertain. Man proposes & God disposes.

How is our friend Mrs. Cornish? She wrote me such a kind letter after Col. Rion's death.

² I was glad to see by the papers you might be making plans to see your favorite project of securing a College before your death at Fort Hill or in its neighborhood & so behold with your own eyes the good work of your own hands. I trust, if it is your desire, that you will be able to settle the matter on a secure footing during your life. I take a most lively interest in whatever pertains to your pleasure. Will Fort Hill be included in the donation?

Remember me kindly to good Mrs. Prince & her daughter Epsie who is now quite a woman, I suppose.

I have been home two weeks from Lucy. Hanna has had measles but is quite over them now. But not strong enough to go to school. With much love I remain

Truly Yours

Mary C. Kim